
THE ACTS CHURCH 2:42
"EXPERIENCE REAL CHURCH"

March 9, 2014

TEXT: *Joshua 8:1-8 KJV*

And the LORD said unto Joshua, Fear not, neither be thou dismayed: take all the people of war with thee, and arise, go up to Ai: see, I have given into thy hand the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land: (2) And thou shalt do to Ai and her king as thou didst unto Jericho and her king: only the spoil thereof, and the cattle thereof, shall ye take for a prey unto yourselves: lay thee an ambush for the city behind it. (3) So Joshua arose, and all the people of war, to go up against Ai: and Joshua chose out thirty thousand mighty men of valour, and sent them away by night. (4) And he commanded them, saying, Behold, ye shall lie in wait against the city, even behind the city: go not very far from the city, but be ye all ready: (5) And I, and all the people that are with me, will approach unto the city: and it shall come to pass, when they come out against us, as at the first, that we will flee before them, (6) (For they will come out after us) till we have drawn them from the city; for they will say, They flee before us, as at the first: therefore we will flee before them. (7) Then ye shall rise up from the ambush, and seize upon the city: for the LORD your God will deliver it into your hand. (8) And it shall be, when ye have taken the city, that ye shall set the city on fire: according to the commandment of the LORD shall ye do. See, I have commanded you.

INTRO: *Are You Listening to the Word of the LORD?*

And the LORD said unto Joshua

In Chapter 7 Joshua commanded the people ***without hearing*** the Word of the LORD

Romans 10:17 KJV

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Romans 14:23b KJV

… for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

***And the LORD said unto Joshua*… Fear not, neither be thou dismayed**

Take all the people of war with thee, and arise, go up to Ai
See, ***I have given into thy hand***
the king of Ai, and his people, and his city, and his land

Joshua had to Hear the Word of the LORD and Adhere to the Word of the LORD

I. OBEDIENCE ALWAYS BRINGS BLESSINGS

JOSHUA 8:25-29 KJV

And so it was, that all that fell that day, both of men and women, were twelve thousand, even all the men of Ai. (26) For ***Joshua drew not his hand*** back, wherewith he stretched out the spear, ***until he had utterly destroyed all the inhabitants of Ai.*** (27) Only ***the cattle and the spoil of that city Israel took for a prey unto themselves, according unto the word of the LORD*** which he commanded Joshua. (28) And Joshua burnt Ai, and made it an heap for ever, even a desolation unto this day. (29) And the king of Ai he hanged on a tree until eventide: and as soon as the sun was down, Joshua commanded that they should take his carcase down from the tree, and cast it at the entering of the gate of the city, and raise thereon a great heap of stones, that remaineth unto this day.

JOSHUA 1:7-9 KJV

Go Back And Look At God's Command To Joshua

Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou ***mayest observe to do according to all the law***, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, ***that thou mayest prosper*** whithersoever thou goest. (8) This ***book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth***; but thou shalt ***meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success***. (9) Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

OBEY GOD'S WORD AND PROSPER!

PROVERBS 3:5-6 KJV

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. (6) In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

II. *IN ALL THY WAYS ACKNOWLEDGE HIM*

JOSHUA 8:30-31 KJV

Then ***Joshua built an altar unto the LORD God*** of Israel in mount Ebal, (31) As Moses the servant of the LORD commanded the children of Israel, ***as it is written in the book of the law*** of Moses, an altar of whole stones, over which no man hath lift up any iron: and ***they offered thereon burnt offerings unto the LORD, and sacrificed peace offerings***.

JOSHUA 8:32-33 KJV

And ***he wrote there upon the stones*** a copy of the law of Moses, which he wrote in the presence of the children of Israel. (33) And ***all Israel***, and their ***elders***, and ***officers***, and their ***judges***, ***stood on this side the ark and on that side*** before the ***priests*** the ***Levites***, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, as well the ***stranger***, as he that was born among them; half of them over against mount Gerizim, and half of them over against mount Ebal: ***as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded before***, that they should bless the people of Israel.

The entire nation stands at attention as the Law of Moses is presented in writing. ***It was considered a blessing unto the people!***

JOSHUA 8:34-35 KJV

And afterward ***he read all the words of the law***, the ***blessings*** and ***cursings***, according to ***all that is written in the book of the law***. (35) **There was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua read not before all the congregation of Israel**, ***with the women, and the little ones, and the strangers that were conversant among them***.

Isn't it a shame that we have become such a group of consumers when it comes to the Word of the LORD?

How often have we heard it said by parents… ***"My child just isn't interested in church or bible study"*** **– or –** ***"This church just doesn't hold my attention"***

Here's one – ***"I know that the movie isn't biblically sound but I hope to enjoy it"***

2 TIMOTHY 4:2-4 KJV

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. (3) ***For the time will come*** when ***they will not endure sound doctrine***; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; (4) And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Are you listening?

1 Samuel 3:10 KJV And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, ***Samuel, Samuel***. Then Samuel answered, ***Speak; for thy servant heareth***.

III. *According to the Word of the LORD*

Joshua 8:25-28 KJV

And so it was, that all that fell that day, both of men and women, were twelve thousand, ***even all the men of Ai***. (26) For Joshua drew not his hand back, wherewith he stretched out the spear, until he had utterly destroyed all the inhabitants of Ai. (27) Only ***the cattle and the spoil of that city Israel took for a prey unto themselves, according unto the word of the LORD which he commanded Joshua***. (28) And Joshua burnt Ai, and made it an heap for ever, even a desolation unto this day.

Obedience Always brings Blessings

Obey God's Word and Prosper!

In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He Shall Direct Thy Paths.